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Letter dated 17 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the opening of the inter-Congolese dialogue issued on 17 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 17 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the opening of the inter-Congolese dialogue issued on 17 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union considers that the inter-Congolese dialogue constitutes a cornerstone of the Lusaka Agreement and is essential for national reconciliation and the return to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The European Union therefore welcomes the holding of the meeting in Gaborone on 20 August and urges all those participants in the inter-Congolese dialogue who have been invited by the facilitator, Mr. Masire, to go to that meeting and to take part in the proceedings in a constructive spirit.

The European Union and its member States, as providers of political and financial support for the inter-Congolese dialogue, will closely follow the progress of that meeting and will assess the spirit of conciliation and the constructive and creative attitudes of those taking part.

The European Union calls on all participants to show the political courage and willingness to grasp this historic opportunity for reconciliation between all the Congolese people.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.